

- 2) Subsequent to 60 days, the penalty is 50%. However, if the taxpayer petitions a reduction and shows reasonable cause - this penalty may be reduced:
 - (a) to 5%, if filed prior to October 1st.
 - (b) to 10%, if filed after September 30th.
- 3) In all cases where the above provisions are applicable, an additional charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% per month shall be added for each full month.

The following is a general description of delinquency procedures under Ohio law. The implementation of these procedures may vary in practice among Ohio counties.

If real estate taxes and special assessments are not paid in the year in which they are due, then they are certified delinquent by the County Auditor's office. A list of delinquent properties is then published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. If the delinquent taxes and special assessments are not paid within one year after such certification, then the properties are certified as delinquent to the County Prosecuting Attorney. If the property owner requests, a payment plan is arranged with the County Treasurer. If such payment plan is not adhered to or if none is arranged, then foreclosure proceedings may be initiated by the County. Ohio law also provides for notice by publication and mass foreclosure proceedings and sale after three years' delinquency.

The County Treasurer's office employs a notification procedure and proceedings in common pleas court to collect delinquent tangible personal property taxes.

Proceeds from the foreclosure sales of delinquent property become part of the current collection and are distributed as current collections to the taxing subdivisions in the County, or, if applicable to special assessments, are remitted to the subdivisions that levied such assessments.

OTHER MAJOR COUNTY GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCES

Described under this caption are major sources of revenue for the County's general fund in addition to ad valorem taxes. See Appendix A for further information regarding other sources of revenue for the general fund and other funds.

Sales Tax

Under Ohio Law the County may levy a one per cent (1%) piggyback sales tax on permissible types of sales made within the County. Beginning October 1, 1983, the County chose to increase the sales tax to one percent (1%) and increased the current levy with an additional one-half of one percent sales tax. These funds are being used for the construction, operation and debt service on the county correctional facility. The following table shows sales tax receipts for the years indicated:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>% Increase/ Decrease</u>
1999	1.0%	\$17,114,554	9.51%
2000	1.0	18,139,479	5.99
2001	1.0	18,852,315	3.92
2002	1.0	19,513,566	3.51
2003	1.0	19,664,035	.77

Source: Clermont County Auditor

Local Government Fund

The Ohio local government fund was created by statute and is comprised of designated State revenues that are distributed to each county and then allocated among the county and cities, villages and townships located in the County on the basis of an alternative formula approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the largest city in the County, and a majority of the townships and other municipal corporations in the County. Local government fund receipts by the County in recent years are outlined below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Received for Distribution</u>	<u>Portion Retained By the County</u>	<u>Percent Retained By the County</u>
1999	\$3,707,514	\$1,853,757	50%
2000	3,841,329	1,922,876	50
2001	3,846,421	1,925,520	50
2002	3,672,663	1,838,308	50
2003	3,623,605	1,811,803	50

Source: Clermont County Auditor

Local Government Revenue Assistance Fund

The State legislature created an additional fund to designate additional State revenues for distribution to each County, to be allocated in a similar fashion as the Local Government Fund. The following table shows the receipts and amounts retained by the County in recent years under this program:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Received for Distribution</u>	<u>Portion Retained By the County</u>	<u>Percent Retained By the County</u>
1999	\$1,326,858	\$663,429	45%
2000	1,553,308	700,989	48
2001	1,592,152	718,671	45
2002	1,513,964	683,462	45
2003	1,495,101	672,796	45

Source: Clermont County Auditor

Due to uncertainties in the State of Ohio budget for the current and coming year, the impact to the County Local Government Revenues is unknown at this time.

Federal Funds

The County receives federal funds for a variety of major and non-major federal programs. Total federal assistance, as reported on the County's Schedule of Federal Financial Assistance, was as follows:

Federal Funds

1999	\$ 6,249,361
2000	11,545,926*
2001	11,330,568
2002	13,669,686
2003	13,250,643

* Beginning in 2000, the County reclassified Title XIX Medicaid participation to be included as Federal funds rather than as vendor payments. Also beginning in 2000, the County obtained grants from the Federal Highway Administration for highway planning and construction and from the Federal Emergency Management Assistance Administration for hazard mitigation.

Source: Ohio State Auditor's Report

Revenues From County Properties

The County received the following amounts in rental payments from the leasing of County land and space in various County buildings during the last five years:

Rental Receipts

1999	\$ 4,179
2000	5,590
2001	17,275
2002	15,009
2003	24,527

County General Fund.

The following table shows the County's General Fund budgetary balance at year end for the last five years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>General Fund Balance</u>
1999	\$14,465,149
2000	17,297,532
2001	18,840,769
2002	23,677,271
2003	24,859,979

Source: Ohio Municipal Advisory Council and Clermont County Auditor